

## REMARKS

Claims 1-21 were pending in the application. With the present amendments, claims 14-21 are canceled without prejudice, so that claims 1-13 are presented for examination.

Claims 1-5 and 9-12 stand amended in the present amendment. Support for the amendments to the claims may be found in the specification and claims as originally filed. For example, the amendments to claims 1 and 5 find support in the specification and claims at page 7 (lines 5-7 and 10-14), in the original claims, and elsewhere.

No new matter is added by way of the claim amendments.

Applicants acknowledge the Examiner's statement that claims 1-13 are free of the prior art (page 6, lines 7-11).

Claims 1-20 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, as allegedly indefinite for allegedly failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention.

Claims 14-21 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as allegedly obvious over Collier et al., U.S. Patent 5,985,548 in view of Tarlov et al., U.S. Patent 5,942,397.

Applicants respectfully traverse these rejections.

### **The Rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph**

Claims 1-20 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, as allegedly indefinite for allegedly failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention.

Applicants note that claims 1 and 5, as amended, recite a "reactive terminal moiety configured to bind a ligand" so that these claims, and their dependent claims, recite what the Examiner termed "the essential element" as required by the Examiner. In addition, claims 1 and 5 have been amended to recite that the heterobifunctional spacer has "two functional groups" in accordance with the Examiner's comments.

Claims 2-9, 12 and 13 have been amended to clearly recite that the surfaces referred to are "ligand-binding solid surfaces."

Applicants submit that the claims are not indefinite, and that the pending claims particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter of the invention. Accordingly, Applicants believe that the claim rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph are overcome.

### **The Rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a)**

Claims 14-21 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as allegedly obvious over Collier et al., U.S. Patent 5,985,548 in view of Tarlov et al., U.S. Patent 5,942,397.

As claims 14-21 are canceled in this amendment, these rejections are believed to be moot.

### **CONCLUSION**

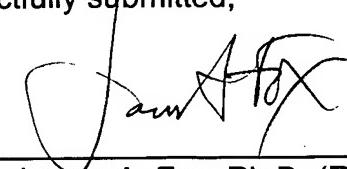
Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and allowance of all pending claims. Early notification of the allowance of the application is respectfully requested.

The Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned attorney at the telephone number indicated below should he find that there are any further issues outstanding.

Please charge any fees, including fees for extension of time, or credit overpayment to Deposit Account No. 08-1641, referencing Attorney's Docket No. 25527-0001 C1.

Respectfully submitted,

By:

  
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